GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
ECONOMIC CONDITION OF RURAL INDIA
A. VENKATESH NAIK;V. VETRISELVAN

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that despite a number of Centrally SponsoredRural Development Schemes and even after Spending crore of Rupees, the economic condition and living standard of the rural people remained unchanged;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the Government have also reviewed the implementation and method ofutilisation of funds meant for these Centrally sponsored schemes;

(e) if so, whether any shortcomings have been found;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)
(a) As per the estimates of the Planning Commission, the poverty ratio in rural areas has declined from 37.27% in 1993-94 to 27.09% in 1999-2000.
(b) & (c) Questions do not arise.
(d) Yes, Sir.
(e) & (f) The mid term appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan, conducted by the PlanningCommission, suggested that the projections on reduction of proportion and number of people Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the Ninth Plan have not been realisedn the first two years of the Plan period. Benefits accruing to non-eligible beneficiaries in some cases, delay incompletion of the projects, inadequate involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions in theimplementation process and certain cases of non compliance of guidelines of the Programmes, have also been noticed
(g) The Ministry of Rural Development has been impressing upon the States and UnionTerritories to implement the Rural Development Schemes more effectively and also inaccordance with the programme guidelines. In order to improve the implementation of the Schemes and to ensure better delivery of benefits to the poor, a four-pronged strategy consisting of
(i) Creation of awareness about the Schemes,
(ii) transparency,
(iii) People`s partnership and
(iv) accountability- Social audit through Gram Sabhas has been evolved.